

Hardburly Refuse Fill 2 AML Enhancement Project Perry County

Project Description

The proposed project (7.5 acres total) consists of excavating an old coal refuse pile for reprocessing. The project area is centrally located on the Carrie Quadrangle at 37° 18' 12" latitude and 83° 07' 22" longitude (see the attached map). To drive to the project area, from Hazard take Highway 15 North to Highway 476 north, then turn right (east) onto Highway 1146 at the town of Bulan. Continue east just past the town of Hardburly, and go to the left hollow.

The coal refuse pile presents a potential fire hazard, an environmental threat, and a source of stream pollution for the local stream channel. The coal refuse was placed here in the 1950s, during nearby coal mining and coal processing. Although no significant erosion seems to be apparent now, erosion could become accelerated during any future extreme rainfall events.

Calculations for the existing coal refuse pile revealed approximately 194,000 total cu. yds. of coal refuse material to be removed and processed. Thus, with an expected coal recovery rate of approximately 30% to 40%, approximately 58,200 to 77,600 tons of processed coal will be excavated.

The existing access road (which is currently in use for the Hardburly Refuse Fill #1 AML project) has been in existence for several years and is also being used by a natural gas company (Equitable Production).

Prior to refuse removal operations, a sump will be constructed on the downstream side of the coal refuse pile. All runoff from the proposed project area will be directed through the constructed sump prior to entering local stream channel(s). Once all coal refuse material has been removed from the project area and the disturbed area has been revegetated, the sump will be eliminated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized for this project to control sediment, including sump straw bales and/or a silt fence, and a diversion ditch. A temporary 18 inch CMP culvert is proposed to allow traffic to cross the proposed ditch. The culvert will be covered with enough material to allow equipment and all authorized vehicular traffic to cross. Once the work is completed and during reclamation of the site, the culvert will be removed. Acid water discharges are not expected to occur. However, if this should occur lime will be placed in the diversion ditches and the sump to prevent any acidic discharges. A diversion ditch and a silt fence are proposed to divert any discharges into a sump to allow for settlement.

The project site will require the removal of trees. These trees will be assessed by a qualified biologist to determine if they are potential Indiana bat habitat. If the trees are determined to be potential Indiana bat habitat, removal will be performed during the accepted tree clearing period. If any trees are to be removed outside of the accepted tree removal period, a bat survey will be performed by a qualified biologist or payment will be made into the USFWS bat fund. Once vegetation is removed, the refuse removal process will begin.

The existing coal refuse pile lies upon the natural ground line within the valley bottom. The applicant will create a work area for which trucks will be loaded as refuse material is taken from the existing pile. The disturbed areas will be kept to a minimum. Within the proposed work area it will be necessary to create enough room to allow the transport trucks the ability to load and turn to exit the project area. The removal process will not begin until all necessary drainage features are in place.

The equipment to be utilized during the removal process will include, but may not be limited to, dozer(s), endloader(s) and/or excavator(s). As the refuse material is removed, the equipment will create a stable configuration within the final ground line. The disturbed areas will receive final grading in such a manner that they will blend with the surrounding natural ground line.

Any rejected refuse or “red-dog” encountered during the project will not be removed from site, and will not be placed in such a manner as to contribute to runoff from the site. It will be placed on the slopes outside the runoff area and graded to a stable configuration.

Any concrete debris found in the refuse removal areas will be pulverized, buried, and covered with graded refuse and cover material. Metal debris and any trash encountered within the coal refuse area will be transported to an off-site approved landfill. Any unknown mine openings discovered during this operation will be reported to appropriate regulatory authorities. A no disturbance area (25’ buffer zone) includes two gas wells. A 6 inch diameter gas line runs parallel to the proposed boundary on the eastern side. The proposed boundary is 25’ or greater from the gas line. Before any work on this project begins, it is highly recommended that the gas line be clearly marked. No power poles or power lines exist within the project area. No known cemeteries exist within the project boundary.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. The refuse/slurry will be transported to Deane Mining Company, LLC. , DNR permit # 867-8055 for processing, located at Deane, KY.

During the removal process excessive dust production will be controlled by watering trucks. This dust control will be conducted within the removal site, at the access/haul road(s), and any other place deemed necessary by the KYDAML.

Once refuse recovery operations are completed, the disturbed areas will be scarified, limed, top soiled or alternate top soiled, then seeded and mulched. If the native topsoil located at the original ground line proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Upon completion of refuse recovery operations, all disturbed areas will be revegetated to prevent erosion. The areas to be revegetated may require lime application to neutralize any acidic or barren spots or to promote vegetative growth. The Division of Abandoned Mine Lands will plant trees on the reclaimed project area. The species and stocking rate will be determined by KYDAML personnel.

The project site has been previously disturbed by coal mining, residential construction, or road construction. No disturbance of any stream reach is planned. No construction is proposed within a regulated floodplain. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. This construction activity will be conducted under the authority and supervision of the local public road authority and will consist of standard road construction practices appropriate to mitigate impacts to the local community from potential degraded road conditions in order to maintain public traffic safety.